

PATTERNED POLYMER ARTICLES

Abstract

Articles such as elongate strips for use as masking materials when spray
5 painting a vehicle are formed from a compressible polymer material and
provided with a surface pattern in an area that has been deformed under
pressure to retain a desired shape when the pressure is removed. The surface
pattern may be decorative to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the article.
Alternatively, the surface pattern may be functional to provide the article with
10 desired properties and/or to present information to the user. The information
may be in the form of letters, numbers, symbols, pictures or a combination of
any of these to identify the article, its source or to provide instructions for its
use. The surface pattern may be formed during the shaping process or applied
separately after the shaping operation.

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